

CATALOG ASTRO BUCHMESSE 2025/2026

NEW RELEASES

Camilla and the Donut Dragon, Elisabetta Zanello **Illustrated, children age 5-7**

A magical encounter between a girl and a dragon, a friendship that will lead the protagonists to grow together and overcome their difficulties in two worlds that do not understand them. The first book of the series for children and parents, *Small Adventures*, is about the relationship between emotions and food (excess or lack). At the end of the book, the compendium of the psychologist and psychotherapist Michela Cavaliere, to entertain the little ones, but also to help adults understand them better. Reading age: from 4 years.

Homer on the Radio: The Iliad Minute by Minute, Daniele Bello **Age 9-11, Mythology and Parody**

The students of a high school want to start a radio station, but under certain conditions: a part of the programmes must concern school subjects. The idea is to focus on Greek mythology, a topic that pleases everyone, having 'special reporters' from the plain of Troy to tell the story "live". The young people's imagination takes over and the war of Troy is no longer a boring lesson, but enjoyed moment by moment from within, from the battlefield, through the chronicle of the reporters. Reading age: from 12 years.

The Toymaker, Francesca Rossetti **Young Adult Clockpunk, MM Romance**

Nicholas Walker is a professional snooper, always looking for new stories. So when he finds himself in front of the mysterious Villa Ravn on the outskirts of Middlesbrough, he can't resist the temptation to enter and explore it. But the huge house is not abandoned as he thinks and Nicholas will meet his age-mate Aleksander Ravn, a teenager disturbing at least as much as his home. The discovery of a broken clock and the mystery surrounding its owner will put the two on a road to reveal the secret that surrounds it, as well as to find the answer to the question that permeates their search: "All that is done for Love, goes beyond Good and Evil?".

24/7 Las Vegas, Giovanni Magistrelli **Thriller, horror, romance**

June 2013. The Italian Michelangelo Aquilano is a thief in Las Vegas and receives the task of stealing something in a villa but, when he sees the object, a white gold dagger studded with rubies, he decides to keep it, arousing the wrath of his clients, the mafia family Di Giacomo, who begins to hunt him. July 2013. Giada Rivolta, an employee from Milan, lands in Las Vegas for a

week of vacation with her friends Matteo and Maribel, to whom she will be the maid of honour for their wedding in Sin City. The next day, Giada recognizes a man with a familiar face, who runs, chased, inside the Venetian casino: he is just Michelangelo, with whom she was married for a short time in Milan and who disappeared suddenly ten years before. From now on, Giada's life gets complicated, as she crosses the path of the Di Giacomos, of LVPD lieutenant Derek Moore and of Plamen, the mysterious owner of the stolen dagger. Meanwhile, someone sows death in the criminal underworld of Las Vegas, decapitating his victims and taking away their heads. From the casinos on the Strip to the desert surrounding the city, day and night intertwine in a reality where breaking unwritten rules may mean being executed. "What happens in Las Vegas stays in Las Vegas," people say, but as the days go by, Giada begins to wonder if it will be the same for her.

The Oleander Enigma, Luigi Stefanazzi
Murder Mystery, Noir

The summer of 1954 will be remembered for a long time in the small Principality of Seborga. The park surrounding the castle of Duke Ottavio Lescaris, Councillor of the Crown and candidate for the role of Foreign Minister, is the stage for some crimes that seem to follow an identical script. On the bodies of men murdered at the end of sexual intercourse is left a branch of oleander flowers. Commissioner Brando Donati is forced to unravel among the difficulties of the investigation and the feelings of guilt, linked to the past, that are eroding his soul.

Siege, Max Peronti
Military Fantasy Escapebook

In your hands you have an escape book: here the protagonist is YOU! Your choices and the roll of the dice will determine the course of the story and its ending. Your name is Kommen Sado and you are the ruler of the kingdom of Tolkommen. Your spies have told you that an army of dwarves is marching to invade the lands you rule. But to enter your kingdom, protected by impassable mountains, they will be forced to conquer Fortress Marble. It is there, at the command of your army, that you will attempt to stop their advance. In the second part, you can read the story "The Siege of Fortress Marble" and find out how this war ended. Age: from 10 years.

Magic Mystery: The Bewitched Pizza of Naples, Max & Michi
Escape Book, age 6-10

The series of escape books/mystery books for kids in Italian art cities continues. A group of wizards and witches arrives in Naples for a holiday, but there is immediately a problem: nobody remembers how to make a pizza! Do you need flour? And yeast? Sugar or salt? Oil or vinegar? In short, between loaves and flatbread, an evil spell has made you forget just how to make a good pizza. Help Romeo and Lucilla to solve magic puzzles, to unravel this mystery and find the lost recipe.

Magic Mystery: Christmas in Palermo, by Max & Michi

Escape Book, age 6-10

The escape book saga of the boys from the wizard academy of Magic mystery continues. The mystery, this time, happens in Palermo, and involves Santa Claus... What would happen if Santa disappeared just before the 25th of December? Elves are scared, it never happened! And the old Epiphany fairy will ask her niece, Tignosetta, a powerful witch, for help. But a group of young magicians will be the first to go after Santa Claus. Can you help them in their search? Start the adventure!

***Chimera*, Mauro dal Bo Dark Fantasy**

The ancient Kings used to call Chimera the fires that erased the Old World. One of these fires, in the form of a flame, visits a pregnant witch. During the labor the woman, in pain, swallows the mysterious fire and from her belly a huge glowing flame shone out. Several years later, two girls, Midia and Shi-ri, dream of escaping from the cloister to which they were destined by the Theocracy of Egica. Midia is beautiful and of noble origin, Shi-ri appears small and insignificant, yet in the chest she hides an energy that frightens the leaders of the Church. The rebellious gesture of the two girls triggers a war between those who see in Shi-ri a saint, and the defenders of orthodoxy. The story of Shi-ri and Midia alternates with the events of the war seen through the eyes and exploits of two young soldiers enlisted in the ranks of the Orthodoxy: Emril and Ghira. Facing different perils, the two soldiers get into the heart of the heresy and come across Midia. They discover that the woman owns a mysterious mask that binds them to the cult of Shi-ri and that forces them to make a difficult choice.

***The Travels of Ulysses*, Daniele Bello Escapebook, Ages 9-11**

The Odyssey of Homer told in a funny way, in this escape book for kids. A reinterpretation of the Odyssey written in a language suitable to let them get in touch with the world of Greek mythology. After the sack of Troy, Odysseus, the most cunning man in all of Greece, must face a long journey before returning to his homeland: a path that will force him to face storms, monstrous creatures, deities and even a visit to the kingdom of the underworld! Meanwhile, on the island of Ithaca the arrogant Suitors try to marry the queen Penelope and thus conquer the throne. Will Ulysses be able to come back home safely and regain his rightful position? It depends only on the skill of the reader.

***The Beech Tree of Buchenwald: Love at the Time of Nazism*, Michela Cavaliere Historical Novel, LGBTQ+ Gay Romance**

Germany, 1930's. Immanuel, a young Jew, finds in music the only refuge from daily persecution and violence. When, desperate, he decides to take his own life, it is a melody that saves him, played by Adalbert, a German boy set to become a Nazi officer. A deep and secret bond is born between the two, an impossible love in the shadow of Europe on the edge of the abyss.

Indeed, the horror of war overwhelms them. Immanuel is deported to one of the worst concentration camps, while Adalbert finds himself trapped in a system that forces him to choose between duty and conscience. In the depths of terror orchestrated by Dr Vaernet and the ruthless Ilse Koch, the witch of Buchenwald, their story becomes a struggle against fate. Can love survive hatred? And how far can someone defy madness before being swallowed?

***Between Two Worlds*, Massimiliano Masini
Novel, Life After Death**

After a near-death experience that deeply marked his existence, the author spent years thinking about the possibility of sharing with the world what he went through. Helped by a long process of introspection and maturation, he finally found the courage to narrate the event, aware of the potential impact it could have on people. However, rather than limiting himself to a mere exposition of the facts, he chose to transform his testimony into an enthralling novel, rich in deep emotions and reflections. This decision was dictated by the desire to transmit not only the experience itself, but also the deeper meaning that it was for him. Through the magic of narration, the author intends to make readers grasp the scope of his experience, inviting them to reflect on the great questions of life and death, and on the precious value of every moment lived.

***Ex Nihilo: The City of Oblivion*, Francesca Sannibale
Dark Fantasy, Venice**

Venice, 2021. An esoteric sect, gathered around the gothic poet Milesia, opens a portal to another dimension after deciphering the inscriptions placed on the columns of Acre, in Saint Mark's Square. Then, dense darkness isolates the city from the rest of the world and some inhabitants are transformed into monstrous marine hybrids, many are killed, others simply disappear. The survivors join the sect, enjoying every privilege.

Francis, Marina and David fight to survive the Apocalypse. With the help of Cleopatra, a cat with magical powers, the three mates set out on the trail of the fragments of the sword Arion, with which to destroy the portal and put an end to the nightmare.

***The Dark Prior*, Jack Roland
Awarded Best Italian Fantasy 2025**

A knight with no name comes back home from the war, but he is no longer the same man. Maybe he's not even a man anymore. His soul and body have been reclaimed to stop the decline of the world, whose balance based on the twelve elements is corrupted by the creation of a thirteenth element: witchcraft. The Twelve Priors are dying, as a new order spreads in the form of a disease that drives men crazy and turns women into bloodthirsty monsters. To fight this dark tide, a hero is forced to rise again; neither alive nor dead, neither man nor god, inquisitor and executioner, feared by mortals and hated by immortals. Aided by Vesper, a shape-shifting cat, and Averil, a one-eyed seer, the Dark

Prior hunts down ancestral infectors, vampires, and demons, while the kingdoms of the Hesperus continue to wage war with one another for dominance over a world closer and closer to ruin. In the darkest hour, Valka, a fallen queen, finds the courage to face her destiny and embrace the cause of the Dark Prior, but witchcraft now walks the world in disguise, sowing fire and horror. The hopes of the future are threatened by the secrets of the past, because the common thread that separates good and evil is intertwined with blood ties.

One Step from Dreams, Luca Gennasi
Romance, Second Chances

It seems an ordinary mid-April morning in Bologna, when sixteen-year-old Mapi wakes up to go to school, unaware that fate is already hatching the plots of her life. On the same morning of 1985, in distant Salerno, Leo, the man who will mark her existence, is in fact facing the first day of his military service. Massimo, a friend of teenage shenanigans, is also in the same barracks; the two boys meet by chance, they immediately recognize each other and, once out of the army, they start hanging out again. Mapi, who has since become a young woman, is close friend with the exuberant Stefania, who, during a holiday in Spain, will give her the most bitter disappointment. But, true to her reflective nature, Mapi is aware that only one thing can really make her happy: meeting true love.

BESTSELLER

***The Sign of the Storm, Francesca Noto* Romantasy, Norse mythology**

What would you do if you could feel other people's emotions like they were yours? This is Lea Schneider's strange skill, scary for her, and capable to turn her adolescence into a nightmare. But when she believed she had left behind that difficult period, her extraordinary empathy returns with a vengeance. Lea then chooses to start a journey in search of the truth about her. What she does not know is that that journey, as her gift, is part of a greater design. Who's Sven, the mysterious boy she meets, with no past and far more powerful than her? New forces reveal the roots of an ancient game, which the two are the focus of. While a portal between worlds is soon to be forced open, Lea and Sven must find the courage to face their fears and make the right choice. Because Ragnarök, the Twilight of the World, is approaching.

***Sons of the Storm, Francesca Noto* Romantasy, Male to Male, Norse mythology**

Sons of Storm is an urban fantasy novel, based on Norse mythology, about the difficult transition from adolescence to adulthood and the ties of a deep friendship, developing into something more, between two very different boys. Nathaniel is a shy college student raised between New York and Florida, with a prophecy to fulfill and an unusual and loving family around him which he fears disappointing; Winter is a loner, raised in foster homes, mad at the world, as a street-smart kid can be. When they meet under the most unlikely circumstances and get stuck in a wild and ancient past, they will need all their powers, and the special bond developing between them, to survive and find a way back home. Forced into fierce battles, and caught between hard decisions and devastating revelations, they will share a common fate and fight a war greater than themselves, to finally find out what it means to be Sons of Storm.

***Akiko, Michela Cavaliere* Oriental fantasy, standalone volume**

The cursed pact between a naive queen and a millennial demon will give birth to a child. The little one, helped by the Kami (spirit) of the Wind, will be adopted by a simple family, and will show a gift bearer of death and destruction whenever she is in danger. Assassins sent to kill her, won over by her diabolical charm, will make her the heir of Ryūjinja, a monastery of spies and thieves. Here the girl will be called Akiko and develop the ability to see the Ōra, souls of living beings, and learn to use the spiked chain Sashimasu. Akiko will be sent to a distant island to kill a prince, but nothing will go as planned. From that moment, the young woman will move through ancient myths, looking for an artifact to restore balance, in an epic fight that will decide the fate of the world.

***Omega. The Rebel Army, Max Peronti* Military fantasy, epic fantasy**

In a matter of few years, the bloodthirsty emperor Zorks has forcibly subdued much of the free kingdoms of Panteia. No one seems able to stop him, until a disfigured hero emerges from Alzania, igniting the flame of rebellion. It's the beginning of a fiery resistance. In a world of court intrigue and betrayal, a handful of heroes will travel in search of allies, fighting epic and bloody battles, but above all learning to know and cherish each other. Because there is no sacrifice worthier than the one you do for the most precious thing in life: freedom.

The Fabulous Science, Giorgia Staiano & Marco Bennici
Children 5-7 years

Have you ever wondered how the greatest scientists in history were as children? How did the world, in its enchanting mechanism, look, showing them its most important secrets? A journey into fantasy, which will take you to Archimedes' Greece and among the stars with Hypatia and Galileo; you will love nature with Leonardo and Darwin, you will be attracted by small things together with Newton, you will make sensational discoveries along with Volta and Marconi, you will be stubborn like the young Madame Curie, and you will overturn the universe together with the little Einstein. The world of Science will no longer be a distant matter, but with careful simplicity it will become a fairy tale, to fascinate and intrigue adults and children at the same time.

Come Back. A Father's Letter to His Gay Son, Stefano Antonini
Father to son relationship; LGBTQ+

A title that is entering schools, theaters and associations fighting against bullying and in favour of the homosexual culture in Italy. A father is back home early from work and finds his teenage son in the arms of another boy. The amazement, the anger and the pain freeze him. He locks himself in his room and manages to do only one thing: he writes a long and touching letter to his son. "Come back" is the letter that perhaps would have avoided the suicide of many minors whose only different thing was the ability to love.

The Time of the Gods, Giovanni Magistrelli
Thriller, Norse mythology

End of World War II. Humanity is preparing for a new beginning, made of peace and hope. Ásgarðr, the Eternal Kingdom: the pantheon of the Norse gods is reunited by the ruler, Óðinn, to punish the four Æsir, who acted behind the conflict on Miðgarðr, the Earth. Loki, Baldr, Týr, and Thòrr are exiled among mortals. Rome. Under Saint Peter's Basilica, the Reverend Giulio Viola leads a secret organization of psychics, who sense the arrival on Earth of the four exiled Æsir. The discovery brings into play, in addition to the Vatican, the religious leaders of the main monotheistic religions, each defending millennial dogmas. In a succession of twists and turns, from Dubai to Rome, from Tehran to Las Vegas, everyone will have to deal with their conscience, in search of the absolute truth. For the time of the gods has come, by now.

The Faces of the Apocalypse, Giovanni Magistrelli
Thriller, noir, serial killer

The life of Inspector Rigoberta "Ribe" Daverio is shocked when her mother Anna is killed during an attempted robbery gone wrong. Three years later, Ribe is no longer a member of the Police and makes a living as a private eye in Milan. Commissioner Stefano Sanna, then her superior and now her occasional lover, asks her to investigate in an unofficial way on a murder happened in the surroundings of the city: an esteemed psychologist was found dead with a message left on his naked and torn body, a passage taken from the Book of Revelation of the apostle John. Starting from this clue, Ribe Daverio will enter step by step into a reality where evil is a palpable presence, composed of different shades that swirl around a single word: Apocalypse.

The Union Under Fire, Giovanni Magistrelli
Dystopian thriller

In a forthcoming future, European nations have disappeared, incorporated in the Union, a technocracy divided into four provinces and with the central power in Brussels. The European continent has become a utopian paradise for its citizens, where everyone lives together in peace and freedom, at least on the surface. Meanwhile, a clandestine movement is plotting to overthrow the government or, at least, reveal the dictatorship that hides behind the fake democracy. In Berlin, the capital of the Eastern Province, Governor Angelika März is killed by a sniper just before Christmas. Major Ian Lamm of the Secret Service is among the officers charged with finding the culprit, just among the supporters of the underground movement. The line between oppression and freedom, right and wrong is blurred, in this fictional political thriller.

The Divine Comedy 3.0, Daniele Bello & Beatrice Bello
Dante's parody, great classic for age 9-11

Reading Dante has never been so fun! This story was born from the idea of interpreting the Divine Comedy in a fairy-tale way; a parody written in a language suitable for younger people, to introduce the classic literature. A girl, Chiara, falls asleep while studying before an important school test. She dreams of finding herself in a dark forest and the only way out is to face the same journey described by the poet Dante, from Hell to Heaven. The authors (father and daughter) enjoy, between hilarious gags and modern quotes, rewriting the most fantastic journey in the afterlife, in a version revised by the sensibilities of today's teenagers. The text also contains appendices explaining Dante's main themes: courtly love; the Guelphs and Ghibellines feud; the philosophy of Aristotle; the Ptolemaic geocentrism and other insights for explanations both at school and in the family.

Ragnarok, Giovanni Magistrelli & Francesca Noto
Escapebook, Norse Mythology

Your name is Jord, and you always thought you were an average 16-year-old teenager, living in a small town in Canada. But what will you do when you discover that you are in fact the son of Thor, the thunder god of Asgard, and that you have the task of saving the Earth and the other existing worlds, preventing Ragnarok, the end of the whole universe? A thousand adventures

await you, along with many different endings. It is time to find out if you will be able to avoid Ragnarok! Age: from 10 years.

Magic Mystery: A Case of Witchcraft in Rome, Max & Michi
Escape book, kids 6-10 years

It is Lucilla's first day at the Academy of Witchcraft in Rome and she immediately befriends Romeo, Bonci, Ivo and Giorgina.

But something goes wrong! An object is stolen and the boys and girls will have to find it using spells, cleverness and a bit of luck.

Do you want to help them?

Overcome magical trials and solve the riddle of the Order of the Aspic.

The game begins: in this escape book, you are the protagonist!

NEW VOICES

The Porthole onto Creation, Alberto Morganti **Poetry Collection**

A poetry collection that has won dozens of national and international awards. "Reflective, intimate, profound... Alberto's poetry becomes a quest for the absolute...", *Francesco Gambicorti, historian*

Atlantica. The saga, Giorgio Zanzi **Epic fantasy, female point of view** **The Genesis**

From a girl's diary, the story of how the unlikely union of several characters will change her life forever and mark the beginning of an epic tale: the founding of the city of Atlantica.

The Foundation

Crossing an increasingly turbulent territory and facing dragons, undead, and hordes of goblins and kobolds, a group of adventurers escapes aboard a ship to the White Kingdom, where the "foundation" of the city of Atlantica begins.

The Expansion

The transoceanic route between the Eastern Continent and the Kingdom of the Sun is now open, promising fabulous trade opportunities for the Merchant Brotherhood. But the true enemy remains hidden, lurking in the shadows.

Miryam and Yosep: A Novel of the Nativity, Paolo Ballardini **Historical novel, religion and research**

Respectful of religious traditions but independent of any particular faith, this novel recounts the Annunciation, the Nativity, the flight into Egypt, and the return to the family's village. The carefully researched geographical, historical, religious, and cultural context provides a realistic backdrop to the narrative.

OTHER GENRES

FANTASY

Omega. The Fires of War, Max Peronti

Military fantasy, epic fantasy

Second volume in the Omega saga. After spending the winter in the shadows, the time has come for leader Omega: to unleash the entire Liberation Front against the armies of the bloodthirsty Emperor Zorks.

As the war sets Alzania ablaze, other forces come into play, threatening to bring more destruction and death to the kingdoms of Panteia.

In a world of court intrigue and betrayal, a handful of heroes will fight epic and bloody battles. But there is no sacrifice when it is made for the most precious good: freedom.

The Origins of Omega, Max Peronti

Military fantasy, epic fantasy

Omega, who escaped an unjust death sentence, and Zorks, prince of the Red Earth, are two ambrushurs, young people with a power as great as uncontrollable.

During their training, they form a sincere friendship, until a twist of fate puts them against each other. This triggers a series of intrigues and betrayals, which will culminate in the war between the Red Earth and the central kingdoms. Omega and Zorks, for opposite reasons, will find themselves involved in plots, bloody battles and epic duels. Bound by fate to the same woman, they will change inside, until they become the symbol of two opposing ideals: Freedom and Oppression.

Ambrushur, Max Peronti

Military fantasy, dark fantasy

Winds of war blow on the continent of Panteia.

The tyrant Zorks has been killed, among the rulers of the kingdoms of men old rivalries resurface, new alliances are born and secret pacts are made, while the Green-Skin Horde threatens to invade the kingdoms of the West and mysterious raiders land on the southern coasts of the continent.

In this climate of tension and fear, the necromancer Xankroz crosses the sea with a frightening army, to conclude his ritual and kill every living being. The Ambrushur Omega is tasked with stopping him. But he needs the help of dark magicians and a devious elf, a dangerous choice that could prove fatal.

Akiko: The Origins, Michela Cavaliere

Oriental fantasy, epic fantasy

Martial arts and oriental philosophies come together in this epic fantasy, with an exotic flavour. What would happen if a man should challenge the Kami, or spirit, of Time? When Ashvin loses his wife and daughter, he begins his personal war against the gods, starting a chain of events that gives birth to Akiko and leads her to Ryūjinja, the monastery where she learns everything

about martial arts and her soul. On a journey between different eras, the machinations of the Dragon Monastery will be revealed, a great warrior will have a second chance and Akiko will be taught the Way of Silence.

Akiko: Broken Soul, Michela Cavaliere
Oriental fantasy, epic fantasy

Year 2030, Kyoto. Akiko, master of martial arts and daughter of the spirit of Time, is reborn called back by evil energies that crave control over the world. But her soul is divided in three, she is weak and has no memory of who she was in the past. Will the love of an ancient warrior be enough to awaken her or will she have to search for Sashimasu, her fearsome chain buried in the ancient monastery of the dragon Ichiban? In a hyper-technological world, forgotten legends come back to life for the last, decisive, battle!

Yuriko, Michela Cavaliere
Oriental fantasy, mysticism

The Jade Empire is a land of samurai, courtiers, and mystics. Yuriko, a young yamabushi, must take the exam to become an adult and enter the most feared and hated clan of the kingdom. She must deal with political intrigues greater than herself and the power of the Ki that her grandfather gave her. But the threat of darkness will pass through different ages. Sapporo, 1917. Kanon was born in a time of war and will chose a mystical path to try to overcome her demons. Tokyo, 2040. Manami lives in a serene world without too many upheavals, but this apparent peace will be destroyed by the advent of forgotten creatures. New Kyoto, 3780. Akemi is part of the new aristocracy divided into three different worlds, yet she has an uncontrollable attraction for the Earth, a planet abandoned for centuries to which she will try to return. Each of these girls will make very different choices but, basically, everything is already written in the stars, for those who can read it.

The Last Storm, Francesca Noto
Romantasy, Norse mythology

When Nathaniel and Winter, the sons of the storm, were separated by a necessary sacrifice, they could not imagine that the fate of all existing universes would depend on that event. After millennia of clashes between Norsemen and Jötnar , after the careless opening of too many portals, the very fabric of the Nine Worlds is being torn apart, and Ragnarök, the end of everything, is about to be fulfilled. Nathaniel will have to face the siege of the Wild Hunt against his will, in an apocalyptic and unrecognizable scenario, while the only hope of salvation seems to be in Winter's hands, in the form of a fragile albino girl of immense power.

The Seal of Prometheus, Walter Vizzini
D&D-inspired, epic fantasy

What if the only way to salvation is darkness?

«My name is Durga Mc Heaven. I'm about to die... and rightly so».

In a world near and far, a tragedy is about to strike: the Rottenness. A dark and unstoppable evil that will erase any form of life. A ranger woman will have

to go back in time and recruit the most powerful heroes of the past: a warrior, a paladin, a wizard, a cleric and a psychic fighter will join her on a journey across the Multiverse, with the aim of averting disaster. The problem is that something is wrong in this story.

The Ancestors' Curse, Giorgia Staiano
Dystopian, environmental.

In a distant time, disillusioned by mankind's abuses, Lios, the Mother Goddess, exterminated the human race by saving only seven peoples. Among the survivors, the Elit dominate nature in peace and harmony. It is among them that Mizar lives, the first to dismiss these teachings. He is short-tempered, grumpy and in eternal conflict with himself. All over the world, meanwhile, children are being born soulless. It is the silent curse of Lios. Mizar will set out to establish order in a battle with his darkest side.

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NOIR & THRILLER

Powers, Giovanni Magistrelli
Paranormal Thriller

In Milan, a father, to save his newborn son in danger of life, accepts the help of a mysterious doctor. Decades later, in Piazza Duomo, Giorgio Braga meets his friend Romano Cattaneo, whom he hadn't seen since elementary school, when the latter had suddenly vanished into thin air. In the same days, Milena, a prostitute, is brutally killed just outside the Lombard metropolis, while individuals with special abilities are supervised and recruited throughout Italy by a secret government organization under the command of Siegfried Siller, a powerful official, ready for anything. What are his plans and what links them to Milena's murder and the meeting between the two old schoolmates? From Milan to Rome, disturbing and uncontrolled powers overwhelm any scruple in the extreme attempt to prevail over one other and to survive in the new era of light, but also of darkness, which is looming on the horizon.

The Voice of Deception, Marco Varuzza
Supernatural Thriller

An isolated monastery in which life flows peacefully and unchanged will be turned upside down by a silent war.

What disturbs the life of the peaceful monk Carlo is his encounter with an unknown man. A sinner, with a phlegmatic air and with the inevitable lit cigarette. His questions open a window into the great mystery surrounding the monastery and the threat looming over this peaceful place.

Caught in a conflict between forces bigger than him, the monk will have to face his own weaknesses and uncomfortable choices. And if the world before was either white or black, now Carlo will have to deal with a gray that destroys all his certainties.

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ESCAPE BOOKS

Heracles: The Birth of a Hero, Gilbert Gallo **Greek Mythology**

In this book, you are the protagonist! As in historic fantasy escape books, become a hero like Hercules. Your name is Alcaeus, prince of Thebes, the city of the Seven Gates of mythological Greece. Your life flows peacefully until the terrible day when, cursed by the gods, you are blinded by a fit of madness and your hands become stained with the blood of your own family members. Hunted by the relentless and bloodthirsty Erinyes, you are forced to run towards the sanctuary of Delphi to avert the curse that has turned your life upside down and discover which deity wants your ruin. Will you be able to avoid the adverse fate and discover that you are bound to become Heracles, the most famous and powerful hero in all of Greece?

The Mystery of the Labyrinth, Daniele Bello **Greek Mythology**

The Mystery of the Labyrinth is a children's mystery; a retelling of the myth of the Minotaur of Crete written in a language suitable for children, which serves to introduce Greek mythology to the world.

The book is front-back: on one side we have the story of the essay Epimenides, on the other a fun interactive ESCAPE BOOK, with choices at crossroads where the child can decide how the story will develop.

In this book, you are the protagonist!

Magic Mystery: The Phantom of the Opera, Max & Michi **Escape Book age 6-10 years**

Five great friends who attend the Academy of Witchcraft in Rome go on a trip to Venice!

Professor Tignosetta will try to stop their desire for adventure, but the students will find themselves investigating inexplicable events that happen at the famous La Fenice theatre.

Who or what makes instruments play at night, when everyone is asleep, and also leaves magical feathers lying around?

Investigate with Romeo, Lucilla and the other kids and solve the enigma, because this whole school trip will be a mystery!

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MIDDLE AGE

The Betrothed Elves, Daniele Bello **Parody, Italian literary classic**

This is a nice parody of Manzoni's "The Betrothed". Also suitable for children, it introduces you to the world of this great Italian literature masterpiece. The ancient peninsula of Ausonia has fallen under the command of the forces of

evil. Warlords have enslaved humans, orcs, wolves, and even dragons. In this desperate context, two elves try to fulfill their dream of love, but the marriage is opposed by Roderick, an arrogant squire. In order to be able to marry his Lusien, the proud Rethyus is also willing to violate the sacred Oath of the elves.

The Temple of the Rose, Daniele Bello
Mystery, Umberto Eco parody

A fairy-tale parody of *The Name of the Rose* by Umberto Eco, written in the form of an investigative mystery, and in a language suitable for children, to introduce the world of the great Italian literature. In a world devastated by a terrible Cataclysm, one of the most prosperous communities is in Bled Abbey, targeted by religious fanatics: they claim that the temple located in the monastery would be dedicated to a heretical cult and, as such, should be destroyed together with all the books in the Druid library. William of Baskerlaand, an illustrious scholar, is called to solve the case with his assistant, Hudson da Melik. In the meantime, however, the mysteries hovering around the abbey become more complicated: some of the library scribes disappear, leaving no trace. Master William has little time available to reveal the secrets of the abbey, before the arrival of the Tribunal of the Inquisition.

The Dekka Merone: The Legend of the Brown Dragon, Various authors
Parody, Boccaccio classic

FANTASY PARODY OF BOCCACCIO'S DECAMERON, WRITTEN BY 10 AUTHORS WHO PLAY THE BEST-KNOWN CHARACTERS. From Griselda to Ser Ciappelletto from Fra' Cipolla to Chichibio and Calandrino, 10 authors retrace, in a fantasy key and children's magazines, the most beautiful stories collected in Boccaccio's Decameron. The city of Florentia is devastated by the plague. A druid, two dwarves, a jester, a shapeshifter, a paladin, a half-orc, a priestess, a bard and a warrior try to solve the situation, telling their stories to the thousand-year-old Brown Dragon, angry with humans for their wickedness. Will they be able to convince him not to destroy the world, stopping the plague?

Philip Snow: The Trilogy, Chris Touch
Santa Claus Tales

Are you ready to discover the true story of Santa Claus? With Philip Snow and his friends, you'll be catapulted to the North Pole, ride magical sleighs, slide into other dimensions, solve puzzles, and beware of deceptions, because things aren't always what they seem!

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TRUE LIFE STORIES

Anatomy of an Immoral Mind, Luigi Stefanazzi
Coming-of-age novel, LGBTQ+

Francois, following his greatest passion, acting, enrolls in a theater school. Here he meets Gérard, an actor who is also his teacher, and of whom he is immediately fascinated. Gérard is married to Valérie, a well-known

psychotherapist in the city and, soon, their destinies will intertwine in a murky and passionate bond, which will force Francois to confront his personal, uncomfortable truths without hypocrisy.

When Life Starts Again, Luca Gennasi
Autobiographical novel

In an aseptic closet, face to face with a surgeon, a radiologist and an intern, the news arrives. Third degree brain tumor, the size of an egg. The author of this autobiographical novel, Luca Gennasi, had been carrying the "mass" on his head for who knows how long, even if the only symptoms had been, up to that point, small blackouts and excruciating pangs. He became certain that he would die, in the prime of his life, at the age of 55. Starting from this painful personal experience, Luca tells his past story, made up of numerous meetings, trips, successes and even small, very useful failures.

An Imperfect Love, Luca Gennasi
Love story, second chances

Leo, top manager of a multinational company, and Mapi, a successful writer, after a life spent chasing each other, will have to face countless trials to crown their love. The story takes place between Bologna and Milan, with continuous flashbacks that take the reader to different eras of the protagonists' lives. In the background, the intense Italian history of the last fifty years. The complicated childhood, the different experiences, the numerous encounters, the disappointments, the mistakes, the bereavements that have dotted the life of the characters, as in a sort of divine plan, are a sign of hope for all "happiness seekers".

A Mother's Secret: Hidden Words of an Endless Love, Stefano Antonini
Autobiographical novel, letters

An epistolary novel based on a true story, the subject of workshops in schools in and around Bologna, to educate about affectivity. After losing her mother, a young teacher in a secondary school in Bologna decides to tell her students the secret that the woman had kept for years: her first, great love. In placing on his desk the box containing 124 letters, written between 1951 and 1952 by the woman's then boyfriend, the teacher lays the foundations for a discussion with his students, who find themselves discussing what they would do in that situation and what conditions could be generated in "forever Love".

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HORROR & SCI-FI

Eight, Giada R. Murai
Horror Short Stories

During a night on vacation, eight children gather around the fire to tell one another horror stories. In this frame, Giada R. Murai sets eight stories with a supernatural theme, which have their roots in the primordial fear of death, of the unknown and of the growth. Her debut book, EIGHT is the son of horror

cinema and reworks, with a contemporary and colloquial language, the atmospheres of Stephen King, Mary Shelley, Shirley Jackson and Anne Rice. The punctuated, photographic and direct rhythm prompts a Lovecraftian exploration of the everyday life, where the uncanny and the esoteric are always lurking.

Mission: Agena, Annalisa Caravante & Moka
Sci-fi, colonization of a new planet

Agena is an Earth-like planet. The twin planet that men have always looked for, where to start a new life. Jamal, Aris, Helmut and Greta and the inhabitants of the new village of Agena were taken to the planet without memories of their previous lives, because Barrett and Ankar, the leaders of this mission, are convinced that we cannot start again by keeping alive the memory of a negative experience. They gave some half-truths to these men, women and children: the Earth is unlivable due to a virus and immune people have left to find a new planet.

Jamal and Greta are overwhelmed by dreams and nightmares, in particular Jamal will discover that those dreams are part of a forgotten reality, thanks also to the arrival on Agena of Acrux, a controversial element that happens to be the result of a first experiment on the planet Canopus.

Thus, the two human worlds, divided by lies, meet and clash and all truths come to the surface.

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ARTBOOKS

Alpha & Omega. Creatures of Oblivion, Mauro Dal Bo & Max Peronti

Illustrated color artbook, silk-screened and hardback cover, fantasy illustrations of dragons, monsters and heroes, for an audience passionate about comics & games and role-playing cards. Two books illustrated in one, half a book dedicated to the leader Omega, created by Max Peronti, with dragons and fights, heroes and villains. The other part, mirroring the first, dedicated to the art of Mauro Dal Bo, with dark creatures and preparatory sketches from the world of the role-playing game Neldark. The content is intended to be like a tao: light and shadow blend in a harmony of texts and images, with a high-quality product of color and print.

Angels & Demons. Engel & Dämonen, Rosaria Trivisonne & Benno Pamer

Artbook illustrated in colour, fantasy illustrations of angels and demons, in both Italian and German, for a very large audience passionate about comics. Two illustrated books in one, high quality print, half a book dedicated to the Seraphim saga, created by Benno Pamer, with angels and sensual eroticism. The other part, mirror image, dedicated to the art of Rosaria Trivisonne, with demonic, dark creatures and preparatory sketches, for art enthusiasts.